Middlebury Apr. 15th 1850

Dear Brother:

Excuse me for delaying so long to answer your letter. It was received a few days previous to my leaving Pawlet; but I was too much occupied at the time to write, and since my return to Middlebury, extra labors preparatory to our coming Junior Exhibition have engrossed so much attention, that I have found but little time for miscellaneous business. My school closed about five weeks ago, and I felt much relieved when the task was over. I have not now time to relate particularly my adventures during this period of my pedagogueship, but have a long chapter of them in memory, with which perhaps I could entertain you if I were to see you. By the way, what hinders you to take a ride up here to the "old Stone mill" this Spring and make me a visit? It would take you but a few hours to come by railroad, and the expense could not be great. It ~~would~~ would give me much pleasure to see you, and have a chat of 24 hours, or such a matter.

Junior Exhibition takes place one week from next Tuesday. Our class are now busily engaged in making preparation for the occasion. If you were to enter a Junior's room about this time, you would probably find him wrapped up in mental abstractions, while the multitude of half written sheets, strewed about his premises would indicate the magnitude of his literary labors. The truth is, we intend that our exhibition shall "astonish the natives". I am very confident that my oration

will do so, unless I make some very extensive improvements in it yet. As soon as the schedules are printed I will send you one, so that you may know something of the character of the exhibition. After this takes place, there will be a vacation of one week, before the commencement of the summer term. I think that I shall remain here, or about here, during vacation. I shall have to study nearly all the time to make up what I lost in not getting back at the commencement of the term. I received a letter from father a few days ago, He wrote that he had got moved — to his new farm, and that Mr. Hardy and uncle Willard had taken possession of the old homestead. I hope that this change will prove advantageous to father, and think it cannot be otherwise. Also received a letter from Sumner a short time since, He was well and prospering.

I cannot write more now, but hope you will accept these few lines with the same cordiality, as if there were a whole sheet. In fact, where one writes nonsense, I believe that brevity is considered by most men, ~~a redeeming quality~~. ~~—~~ preferable to prolixity.

Most sincerely your friend and brother
Solon.

N.B. [I should be very happy to have you come to Middlebury and attend Junior Exhibition on the 23d inst. It would cost you nothing but your traveling expenses, and I think that you would make it a pleasant visit. ~~Answer~~. If you cannot come, please to write me again before you leave Chester.]

Salem. Mass
1850.

APR
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Mr. Ellery Albee
Chester Vt.